



South Transfer Station Project
Summary of Stakeholder Meeting

October 5, 2010, 5:00 to 6:30 PM
South Park Neighborhood Center
8201 10th Avenue South, Seattle, WA

Attendees

Stakeholders

Patrick Burningham
Debbie McNeil
Bill Pease
Carl Pierce
Wendy Woldenberg
Kevin Burrell

Design Build Team

Tom Aura, Mortenson
Gary Rea, Mortenson
Terrill Chang, URS
Gareth Loveridge, Swift & Company
Sian Roberts, Miller Hull
Kathy Wesselman, WPA
Marcia Wagoner, ReadWagoner
Michael Read, ReadWagoner

City of Seattle

Henry Friedman, SPU
Jeff Neuner, SPU
Ruri Yampolski, Arts

Project Artist

Carol dePelecyn

Purpose

- Review refinements to facility design since last meeting
- Review building graphics options
- Review public art proposal

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

Opening Remarks

Henry Friedman, SPU Project Manager

- Several critical permits have been obtained, but a few more are needed before construction can proceed.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued the Determination of No Hazard To Air Navigation determination. Landscaping was modified to meet FAA requirements.
- The Seattle City Council unanimously approved the street vacations, conditional upon the construction of the public benefit features.
- The design is at the 90% design level.
- Mortenson held two recent job fairs—one for potential employees and another for subcontractors.
- The closure of South Park Bridge has had no adverse impacts on the existing transfer station operations or on site work to date.
- The Site Preparation work is nearly complete and the site will be ready for Mortenson to begin construction in November.

Tom Aura, Mortenson Construction Executive

- Job trailers and erosion control will be installed next week.
- Project is on track for a November 1 construction start, if all necessary permits are obtained.
- Procurement process has begun, with earthwork, foundations and utility contracts out to bid.

Patrick Burningham, Stakeholder

- As a business owner located near the site, he concurs that site work has been performed well to date with no adverse impacts to his business.

Jeff Neuner, SPU Solid Waste Facilities Manager

- He thanked the Stakeholder Group for sending a letter (drafted by Debbie McNeil) in support of the street vacation.

Landscape Design Update

Gareth Loveridge, Landscape Architect

- Currently under development are design details for gabian site walls (of mechanically stabilized earth).
- To meet FAA requirements, the quantity of trees were reduced and their spacing adjusted to minimize overlapping canopies, which attract swallows. Over 100 trees remain in the approved site plan. Since most native plants bear fruit and nuts that would attract birds, few will be installed.
- The public path (funded by the Community Amenity Fund) will be located within the east property line but outside the site perimeter fencing. A salvaged portion of the South Park Bridge will (hopefully) be used for the bridge at the northern end of the trail. Stakeholders expressed enthusiasm for this proposal.

Building Design Update

Sian Roberts, Architect

- The architect selected a more restrained color palette since facility is so large and they wanted to some contrast with the proposed wall graphics.
- They are proposing the use of salvaged Seattle street signs for use as rain screen-type cladding (with weatherproof membrane behind) at the main entry below overhanging administrative wing. They propose to install the signs vertically with some reading up, others reading down and some turned around.
- They are also proposing to use street sign cladding for the south-facing scale house facades, but with most turned around and just a few facing forward. Concerns were expressed by some Stakeholders that the high reflectivity of the signs may be distracting to oncoming traffic. Some Stakeholders also expressed a concern that the additional signs may confuse new customers since there are several important signs that must be read as you enter the site.

Wendy Woldenberg, Stakeholder

- On the scale houses, users might think the few facing forward signs are meaningful in some way. She recommended the architect consider turning more of these signs so that only the back side is showing.

- On both facades, she recommended downplaying the use of streets signs with street names located in the north and east areas of the city and display prominently those signs with names in the south and west part of the city.

Bill Pease, Stakeholder

- He did not agree with the idea of turning most signs around and have just a few facing forward at the scale houses. He felt that signs representing the city's history and identity would (unfortunately) be turned away and covered up.

Tom Aura, Mortenson Construction Executive

- He estimated that about 450 signs would be needed to clad the surfaces as proposed. Also, there may not be enough of signs with south and west area names to complete the job.

Project Signage Update

Designer Kathy Wesselman

- She presented four concepts for the large painted graphics proposed for the north and south facades for review and discussion. The four options are summarized as follows:
 - A. Direct approach with high contrast "South Transfer Station" in upper left portion and "waste = resource" spanning the full panel width along the bottom
 - B. White "South Transfer Station" in upper left portion knocked out from a background pattern created by repeatedly overlapping "South Transfer Station" in various large sizes and in three colors.
 - C. Black "South Transfer Station" in upper left portion knocked out from background pattern created by repeatedly overlapping "waste = resource" in English, Spanish and Vietnamese in three colors and at the same size.
- Hybrid. White "South Transfer Station" in upper left portion knocked out from background pattern created by repeatedly overlapping "waste = resource" in English in various large sizes and three colors.
- The green color will have to be adjusted for harmony with the street signs. Enamel paint lasting 20 years will be used.

Wendy Woldenberg, Stakeholder

- She thought the legibility of "South Transfer Station" was poor and difficult to read.
- On "South Transfer Station" the stroke height is smaller and the width thinner, relative to the words "waste = resource", making "South Transfer Station" subservient. Can you reverse the relationship so that "South Transfer Station" dominates?
- Since most of the material brought to this facility goes to a landfill, she found the "waste = resource" phrase to be like a jab in the eye, suggesting those using the facility are wasting a potential resource. Adding a question mark so it reads "waste = resource?" would reduce confusion about the message.
- Even if the phrase is meant to be inspirational, it would be more appropriate on the future recycling facility.
- The colors were jarring to her. She would have preferred a lime green to complement the baby blue, rather than the salmon color shown on the drawings.

Patrick Burningham, Stakeholder

- The complexity of shapes was intriguing to him.

- He would like to see something memorable on the end walls, not simply a sign identifying the facility.

Debbie McNeil, Stakeholder

- She was not able to read “South Transfer Station” on Concept B or the Hybrid version. She thought it would be a missed opportunity to identify the building—it won’t help people find it because it is too difficult to read the name in the graphic.
- Writing “South Transfer Station” in black letters would be more legible. She preferred concepts A and C for that reason.
- She was able to more easily read “South Transfer Station” on Concept C because the words behind create a finer texture.
- She also had concerns that the message “waste = resource” will become dated in 20 years.

Kevin Burrell, Stakeholder

- He thought the poor legibility may be due to all the colors in the background being of the same value—could they be given more contrast to create more depth?

Sian Roberts, Architect

- To what degree should this be considered as wayfinding element versus an iconic message? The layering of letters requires one to engage with the image in order to understand it. She thought it would work as a landmark.

Gareth Loveridge, Landscape Architect

- With repeated viewings, He would expect it to read more as a super-graphic than a sign.

Carl Pierce, Stakeholder

- He thought the legibility of “South Transfer Station” was poor in all concepts except A.

Bill Pease, Stakeholder

- He thought writing “South Transfer Station” in black would be more legible. He liked the texture on Concept B.

Jeff Neuner, SPU Solid Waste Division Manager

- In the long term view, increasingly more material will be reclaimed, so the phrase “waste = resource” will be more of a fact as time goes on.

Public Art Element

Carol dePelecyn, Artist

- Meeting attendees viewed a short video of the South Park Bridge in operation which the artist produced.
- Three large pieces (12 feet wide by 45 feet long) of the steel grating and the interlocking teeth from the ends of each span of the former South Park Bridge were obtained for the creation of major artworks on the site. A smaller piece of the grating was also obtained for use as the pedestrian bridge at the northern limit of the multi-use trail if that proves feasible.
- In her conceptual proposal, the steel grating would be cut, welded and installed in the meadow on the east side of the station building facing the public access the to the building.

The art work may be illuminated. Wind passing through the grating may produce some whistling sounds evocative of the sound tires used to make on the grating.

- Part of her proposal could include the steel teeth where the former bridge deck came together. She would like to stand them vertically amidst the trees closest to the self-haulers queue leading to the scale houses.
- The next steps will be to calculate expenses, refine the composition and present the concept to the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) of the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs. With their feedback, she plans to refine the pieces further and then present them to the design team and Stakeholder Group for review and comment.

Stakeholders

- All attendees supported the art concept.

Ruri Yampolski, Public Art Program Director for the Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs

- Stakeholders are encouraged to attend the PAAC meeting on October 12th to voice their support.